

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1, 17, and 21 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

1. (Currently Amended): A network device, comprising:  
a plurality of ports for data ingress and egress;  
a plurality of mid-planes;  
a cross-connection subsystem connected to said ports and to at least one of said mid-planes; and  
a switch fabric subsystem coupled to each of the plurality of mid-planes,  
wherein said cross-connection subsystem is directly and physically connected to at least one of said mid-planes and functions as a physical layer switch which connects on a packet-by-packet basis, and  
wherein said switch fabric subsystem functions as an upper layer switch.
2. (Original): The network device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a control processor card coupled to each of the plurality of mid-planes.
3. (Original): The network device of claim 2, wherein the control processor card is an internal control processor card.
4. (Original): The network device of claim 1, wherein the switch fabric subsystem comprises one or more printed circuit boards, each of which is coupled to each of the plurality of mid-planes.
5. (Original): The network device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of mid-planes comprises a first mid-plane and a second mid-plane.

6. (Original): The network device of claim 5, wherein each of the first and second mid-planes comprises a printed circuit board and a plurality of connectors.
7. (Original): The network device of claim 5, further comprising:  
a first plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the switch fabric subsystem through the first mid-plane.
8. (Original): The network device of claim 7, further comprising:  
a second plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the switch fabric subsystem through the second mid-plane.
9. (Original): The network device of claim 5, further comprising:  
a first cross-connection subsystem connected to the first mid-plane;  
a first plurality of port subsystems connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the first cross-connection subsystem through the first mid-plane; and  
a first plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the first cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the first mid-plane.
10. (Original): The network device of claim 9, further comprising:  
a second cross-connection subsystem connected to the first mid-plane;  
a second plurality of port subsystems connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the second cross-connection subsystem through the first mid-plane; and  
a second plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the second cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the first mid-plane.
11. (Original): The network device of claim 9, further comprising:  
a second cross-connection subsystem connected to the second mid-plane;

a second plurality of port subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the second cross-connection subsystem through the second mid-plane; and

a second plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the second cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the second mid-plane.

12. (Original): The network device of claim 10, further comprising:

a third cross-connection subsystem connected to the second mid-plane;

a third plurality of port subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the third cross-connection subsystem through the second mid-plane; and

a third plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the third cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the second mid-plane.

13. (Original): The network device of claim 12, further comprising:

a fourth cross-connection subsystem connected to the second mid-plane;

a fourth plurality of port subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the fourth cross-connection subsystem through the second mid-plane; and

a fourth plurality of forwarding subsystems connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the fourth cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the second mid-plane.

14. (Original): The network device of claim 10, wherein the first and second cross-connection subsystems are coupled together through the first mid-plane.

15. (Original): The network device of claim 13, wherein the third and fourth cross-connection subsystems are coupled together through the second mid-plane.

16. (Original): The network device of claim 13, wherein the first, second, third and

fourth cross-connection subsystems are coupled together through the first and second mid-planes and the switch fabric subsystem.

17. (Currently Amended): A network device, comprising:

a first mid-plane;

a second mid-plane;

a switch fabric card coupled to the first mid-plane and the second mid-plane;

a first cross-connection card directly and physically connected to the first mid-plane;

a first port card connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the first cross-connection card through the first mid-plane, said first port card functioning as a physical layer switch which connects on a packet-by-packet basis; and

a first forwarding card connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the first cross-connection ~~subsystem~~ card and the switch fabric ~~subsystem~~ card through the first mid-plane,

wherein said switch fabric card and said first forwarding card function as an upper layer switch.

18. (Original): The network device of claim 17, further comprising:

a second cross-connection card connected to the second mid-plane;

a second port card connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the second cross-connection card through the second mid-plane; and

a second forwarding card connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the second cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the second mid-plane.

19. (Original): The network device of claim 18, further comprising:

a third cross-connection card connected to the first mid-plane;

a third port card connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the third cross-

connection card through the first mid-plane; and

a third forwarding card connected to the first mid-plane and coupled to the third cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the first mid-plane.

20. (Original): The network device of claim 19, further comprising:

a fourth cross-connection card connected to the second mid-plane;

a fourth port card connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the fourth cross-connection card through the second mid-plane; and

a fourth forwarding card connected to the second mid-plane and coupled to the fourth cross-connection subsystem and the switch fabric subsystem through the second mid-plane.

21. (Currently Amended): A network device, comprising:

a plurality of ports for data ingress and egress;

a plurality of mid-planes;

a cross-connection subsystem connected to said ports and to at least one of said mid-planes;

a plurality of forwarding cards; and

a switch fabric subsystem coupled to each of the plurality of mid-planes,

wherein said cross-connection subsystem is directly and physically connected to at least one of said mid-planes and functions as a physical layer switch which connects on a packet-by-packet basis, and

wherein said switch fabric subsystem functions as an upper layer switch.